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THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry

A GIFT FOR YOU!

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NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! The Fat Controller's engines can be useful in so many different ways and Thomas is the most useful engine of all! You can see why when you read our first story! How will Thomas help the brass band? The Fat Controller also has many special friends who can help him run his railway more efficiently. You can meet one of his special friends in our second story! Peep! Peep!

COMPETITION!

Turn to page **14** for your chance to win some fantastic **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Toyboxes**, courtesy of *Joshua Jones Ltd* (see picture)!

OUR NEXT ISSUE!

Don't miss our next issue *(143)* of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** for your special free Thomas **Balloon** Gift!

HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR FAT CONTROLLER'S CARD!

If you would like to receive your very own, splendid **Fat Controller's Card**, just send one **red**, **yellow** and **blue** token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer) plus a stamped addressed envelope to: *The Fat Controller's Card Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

Name .....

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.....

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THOMAS TOKEN

ABC

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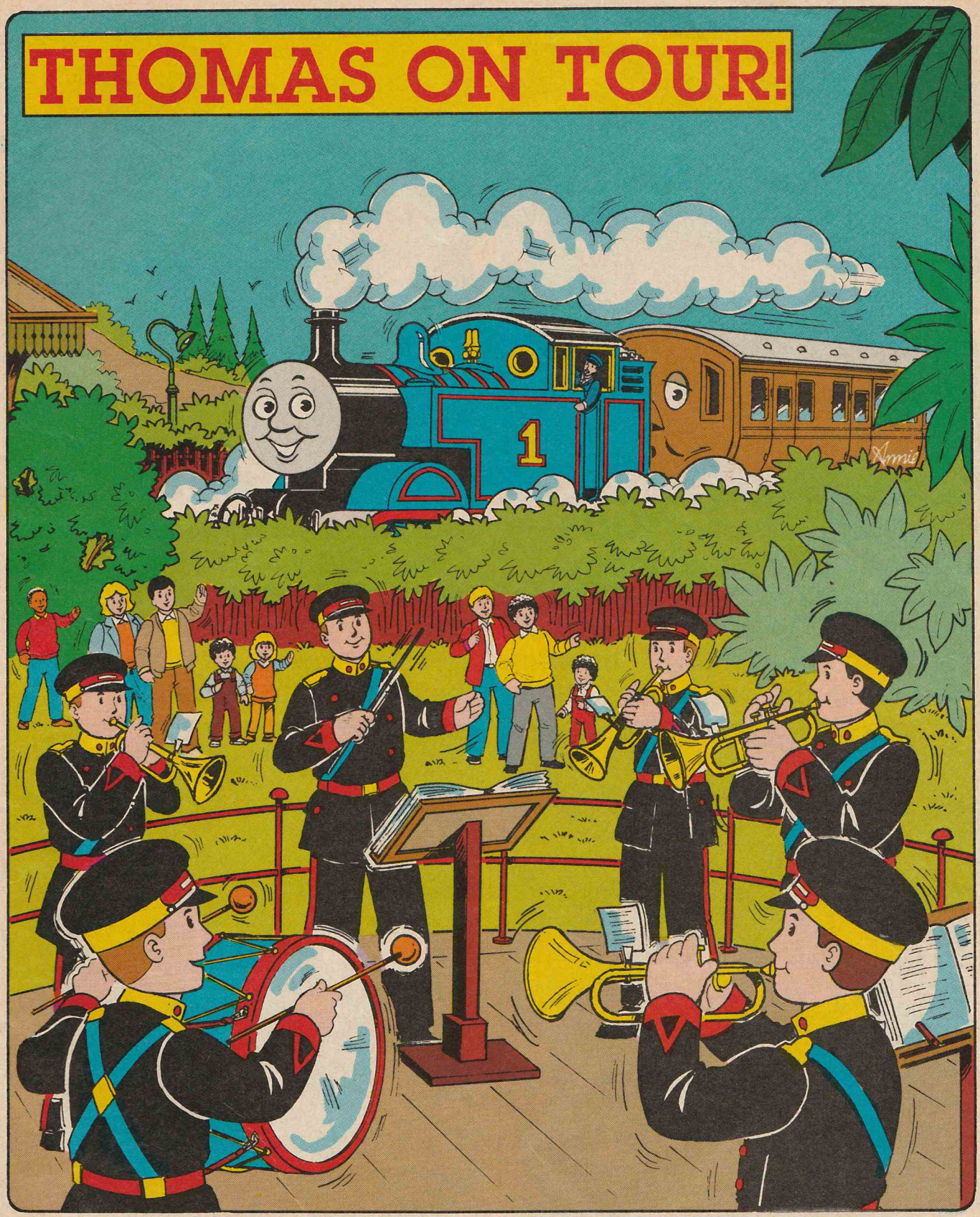
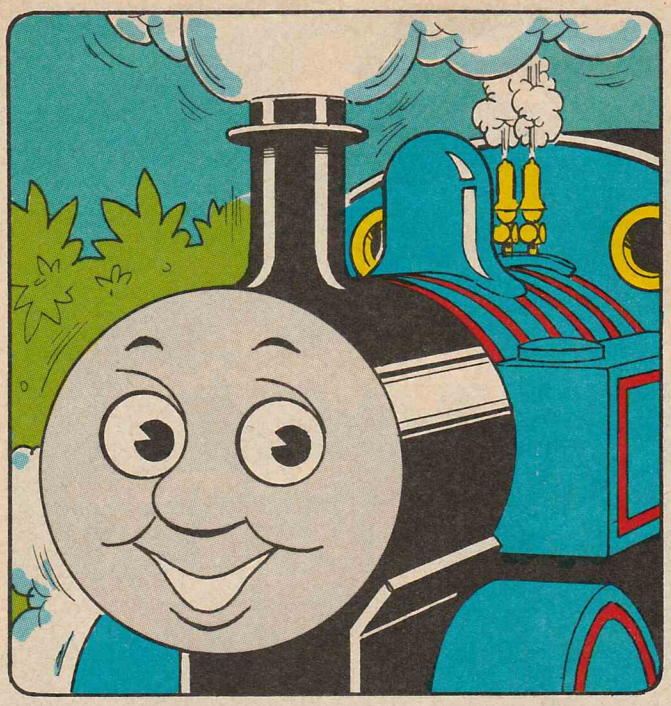
THOMAS ON TOUR!



1. There was one very special reason why Thomas liked to call at Elsbridge Station on Saturday afternoon. A big brass band always played in the park bandstand, near the station.

2. Thomas thought the musicians looked really splendid with their smart uniforms and peaked caps. Their brass instruments sparkled in the sunshine as the band played music.

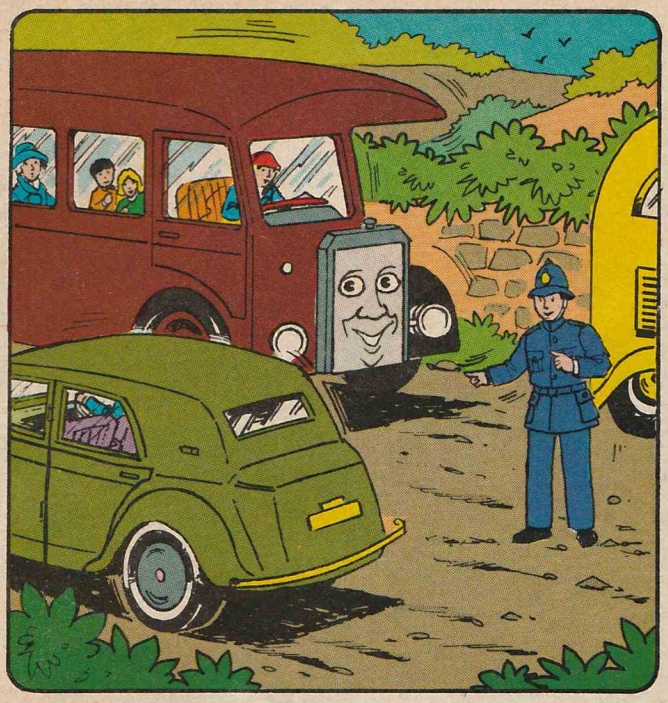


3. Thomas's faithful carriages, Annie and Clarabel, were full of passengers who came to hear the band. Thomas enjoyed the music too. "Peep! Peep!" he whistled when the band finished.

4. The musicians were Thomas's friends. They waved to him and the bandleader spoke to Thomas's driver. "Our band is to go on tour," he said. "We will be playing at all the towns on the Island!"

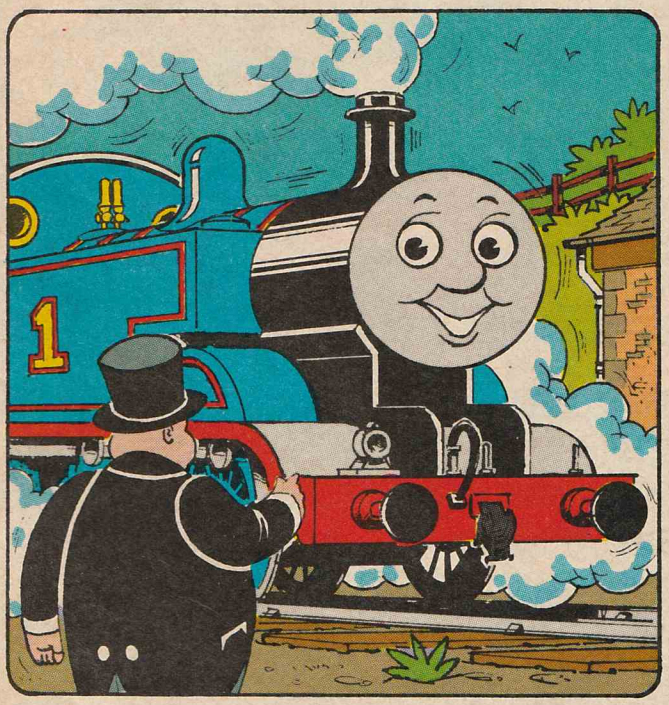
5. Next day, Thomas took some trucks to the station yard at Suddery. As he pulled up, Thomas heard loud music. The brass band played as it came marching along the street.

6. The pavement was packed with people eager to get a good view of the band. Bertie the Bus waited impatiently. "Beep! Make way!" he tooted. "Don't be a grumpy-wheels!" called Thomas.



7. Later, on the way to the next town, the band's coach broke down. "The road is blocked again," said Bertie. A policeman came to help clear the traffic.

8. Thomas was about to leave the station yard when the bandleader came up. "Now we have no transport," he said. "We shall have to cancel the tour."



9. Back at the Main Station, Thomas told the Fat Controller about the broken down coach. "If a bandstand had wheels like me, the band could easily move from place to place," joked Thomas.

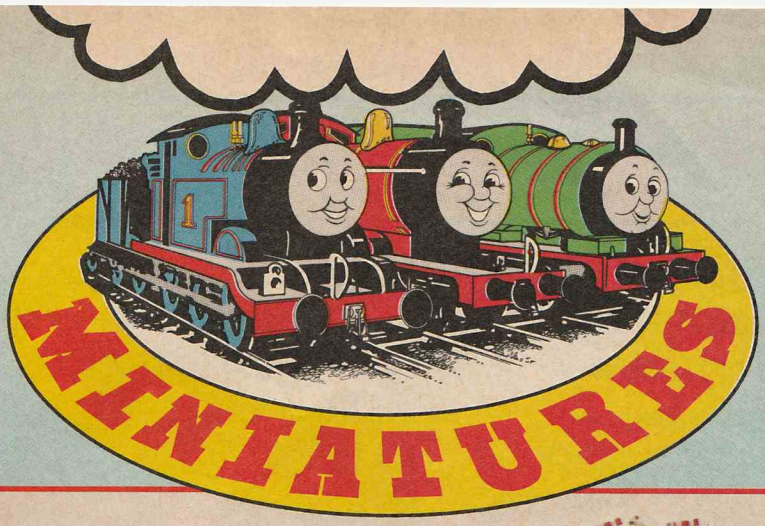
10. "That's a good idea!" cried the Fat Controller. "I will arrange it immediately!" Thomas was puzzled. He wondered where the Fat Controller could find a bandstand with wheels.

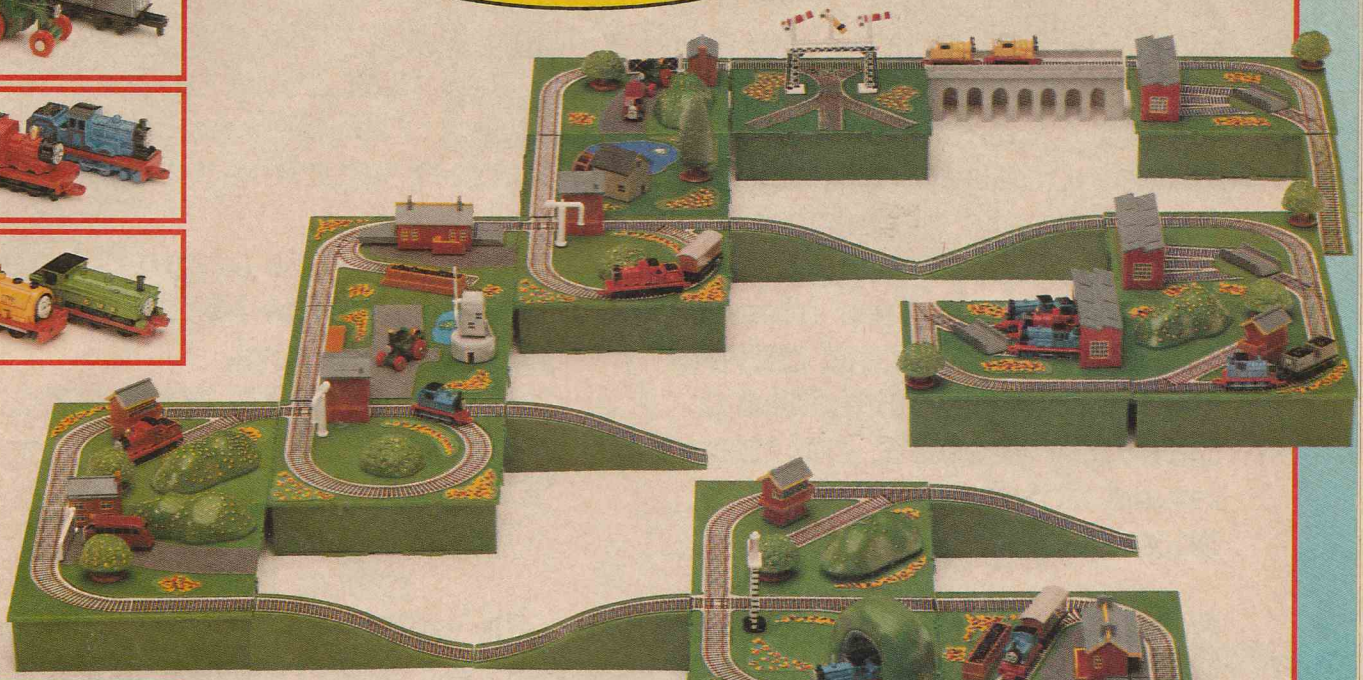
11. Next day, after the passenger service was finished, Thomas was asked to do an extra trip. He went to pick up a flat truck. Some engineers had fitted a special roof to it. "It's just like a bandstand on wheels now," said the Fat Controller. The band sat down in Annie with their equipment and Thomas took them to the next town on their tour.

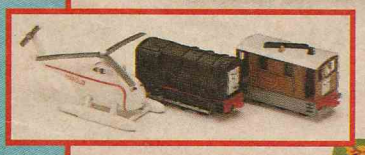
12. As Thomas pulled into a siding, a big crowd had gathered. The band put some chairs on the truck and sat down to play. The musicians were pleased they did not have to march along with their heavy instruments. When the band stopped, the audience clapped and the bandleader bowed. "Now the show can go on," thought Thomas proudly.

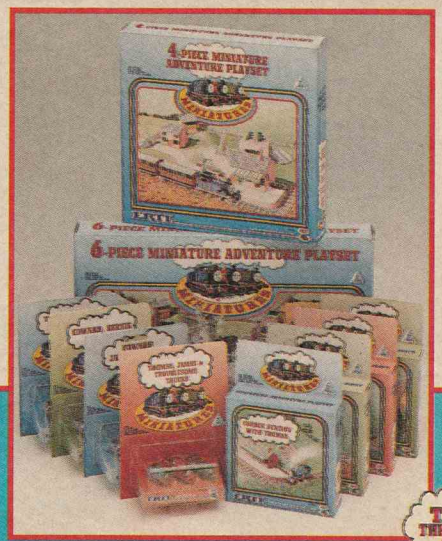
THE END!

In our next issue: The air show!









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THE BIRTHDAY CAKE!

One morning, the Fat Controller made an announcement to his engines.

"Tomorrow, my grandchildren, Stephen and Bridget, are coming to stay," he said importantly. "It will be Stephen's birthday and I have arranged a party for him. You are all invited!" The engines were excited. The children were their friends. All the engines and drivers wanted to give Stephen a birthday present, but they could not think what it should be.

The Fat Controller had an idea. "I know the very thing," he said, "a special birthday cake!" As the engines went about their work, the Fat Controller telephoned the baker at Wellsworth to order the special cake. The baker agreed to deliver it in time for the party.

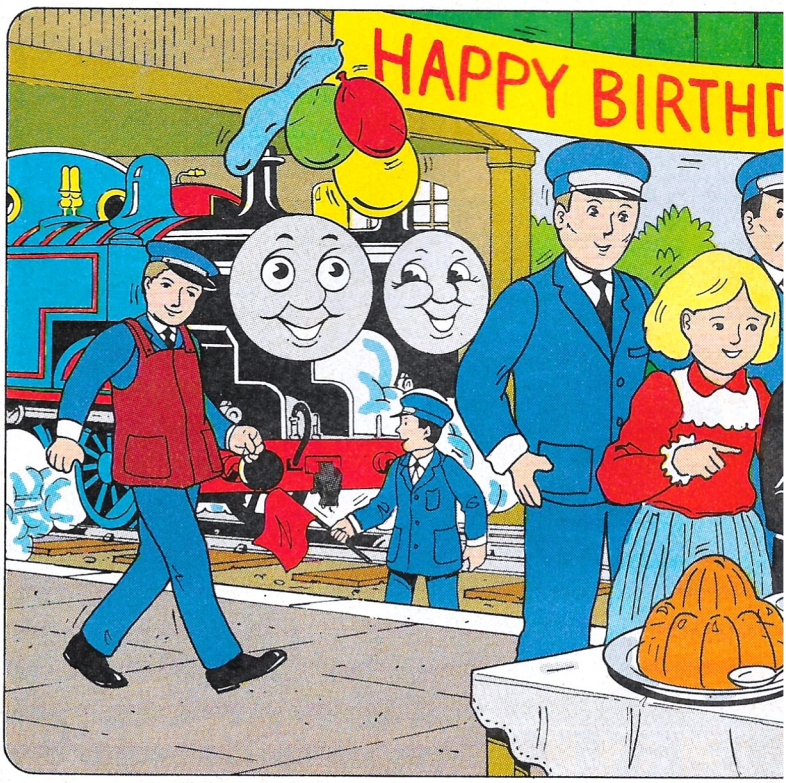
"I will bring it in my van," he said. The stationmaster set up a long table near the engine shed. Lady Hatt arrived with lots of sandwiches, biscuits and jellies. She laid them on the table. Next day, Stephen and Bridget were due to arrive in the afternoon by boat from the mainland. The Fat Controller asked James to collect them. He rolled grandly out of the yard.

Meanwhile, the railway staff hung up bright balloons and a big banner which read: **"HAPPY BIRTHDAY, STEPHEN"**. The engines had never seen the Main Station look so colourful.

"James will be back soon," said the Fat Controller. "Everything is ready!"

"Where is the birthday cake?" asked Lady Hatt.

"It will be here any minute!" replied the Fat Controller. The telephone rang in his office

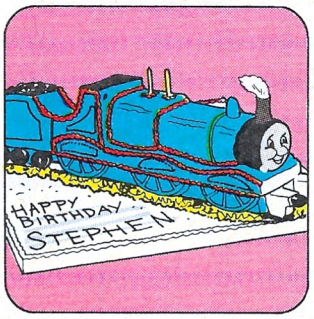


and he went to answer it. The baker was speaking from a telephone box. He explained that his van had broken down and he could not deliver the birthday cake.

The Fat Controller said he would send Thomas to collect it immediately. Thomas steamed urgently on his way. He sped along the track until he arrived at a level-crossing where the baker was waiting. Thomas pulled up and the baker handed the birthday cake to his driver.

"I must stay here," said the baker. "A breakdown-lorry is coming to tow my van to the garage!"

"Off we go then, Thomas!" called his driver. "There isn't a moment to lose!" The fireman stoked coal into the boiler to give Thomas more steam. He raced back to the Main Station. James had already returned with Stephen and Bridget. The party was about to start.



birthday cake

"Well done, Thomas!" said the Fat Controller. He took the birthday cake from Thomas's driver. It was in a large box. The Fat Controller presented the box to Stephen.

"This is from my engines and railway staff!" he said. Lady Hatt helped Stephen lift out the birthday cake. It was shaped like an engine!

Thomas and the others were surprised. They thought it was a splendid cake. So did Stephen who thanked them for it. The Fat Controller lit the candles on the cake, then Stephen blew them out while everyone sang 'happy birthday'.

"When I grow up, I want to run a railway like my grandfather does, with real engines," said Stephen. "In the meantime, we can all enjoy this engine-cake!"

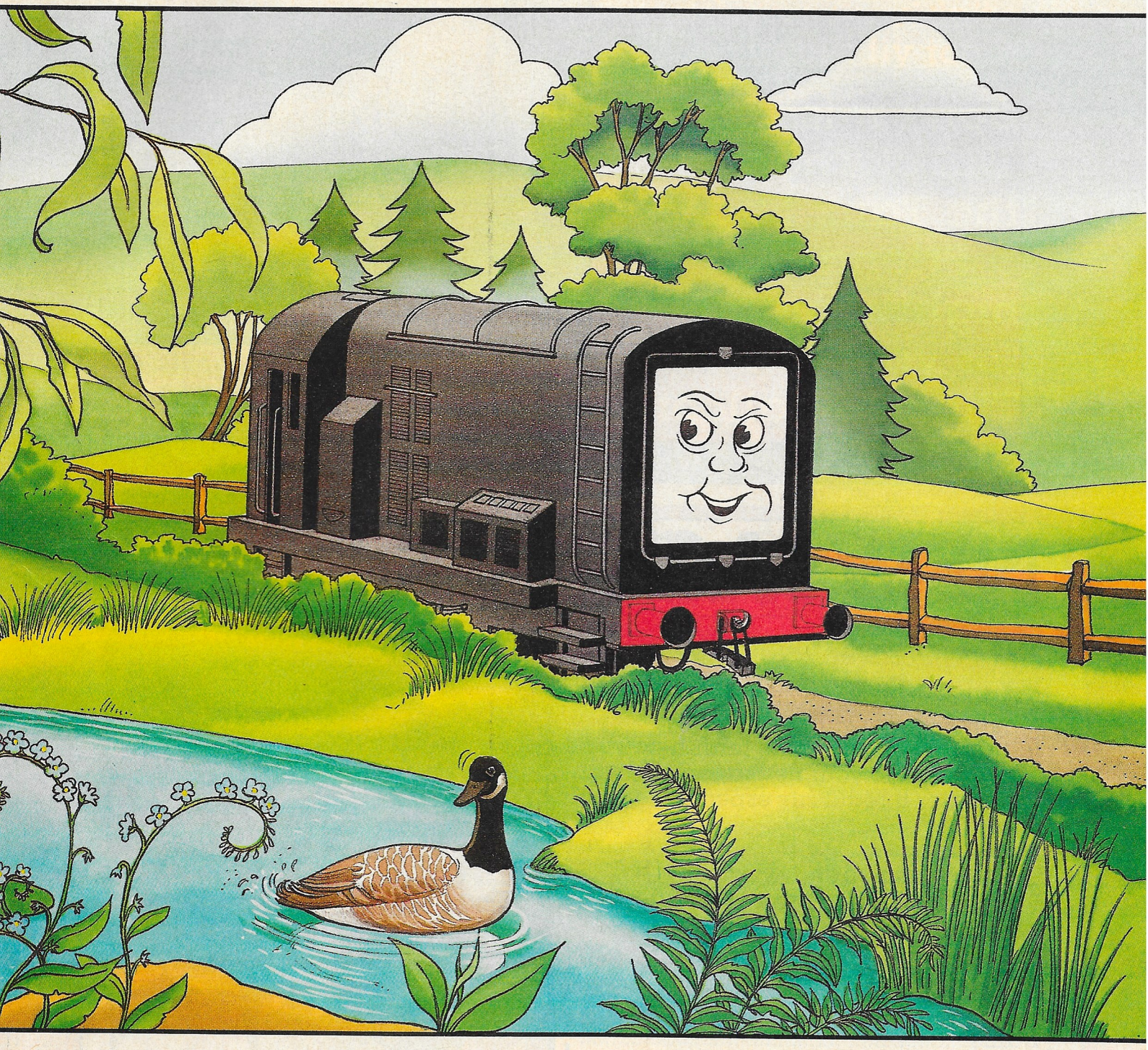
THE END!

Past the p

Which engine can you see?
What colour is he?
What is he passing by?
Point to the cottage!

How many birds are s
Look at the children!
What are they doing?
Point to the frog!

ond!



imming on the pond?

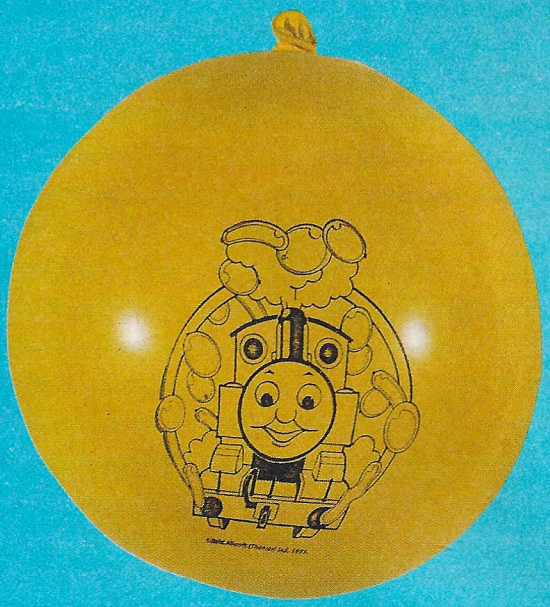
Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a **'mural page'** in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**. Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

In our next issue: Past the bird's nest!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS



Don't miss issue 143 of Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends fortnightly magazine for your FREE Thomas Balloon!

Thomas Balloon Gift! On sale: 27th March 1993!

NEWSAGENT'S FORM

Do you often find that **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** is sold out at your local newsagents? Well, here's a way of making sure of your copy every fortnight – just fill in the form below and hand it to your newsagent! He will then order it regularly especially for you!

Dear Newsagent,
Please save/send me a copy of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** every fortnight! Thank you!

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Signature of parent or guardian .....

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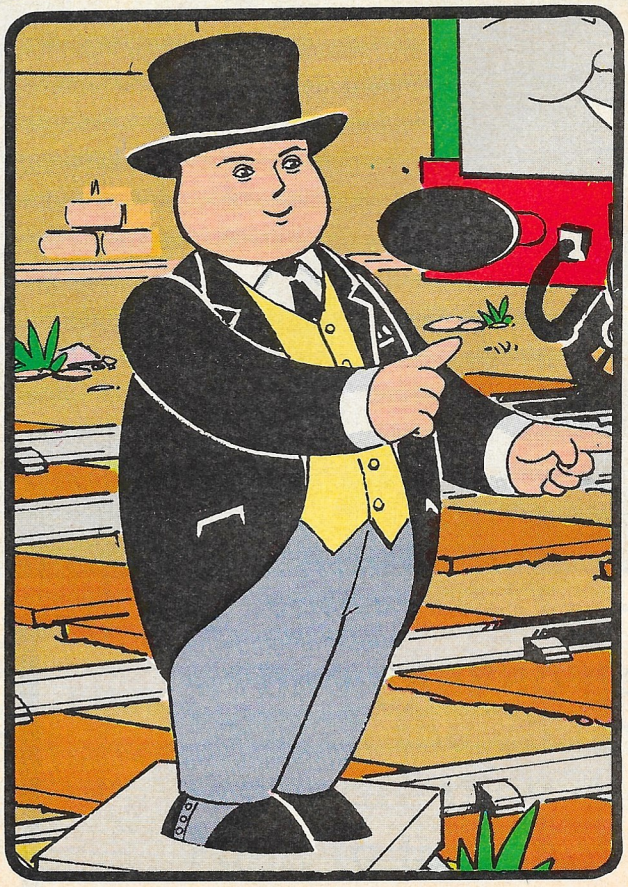

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COMPETITION!

5 TOYBOXES TO BE WON!
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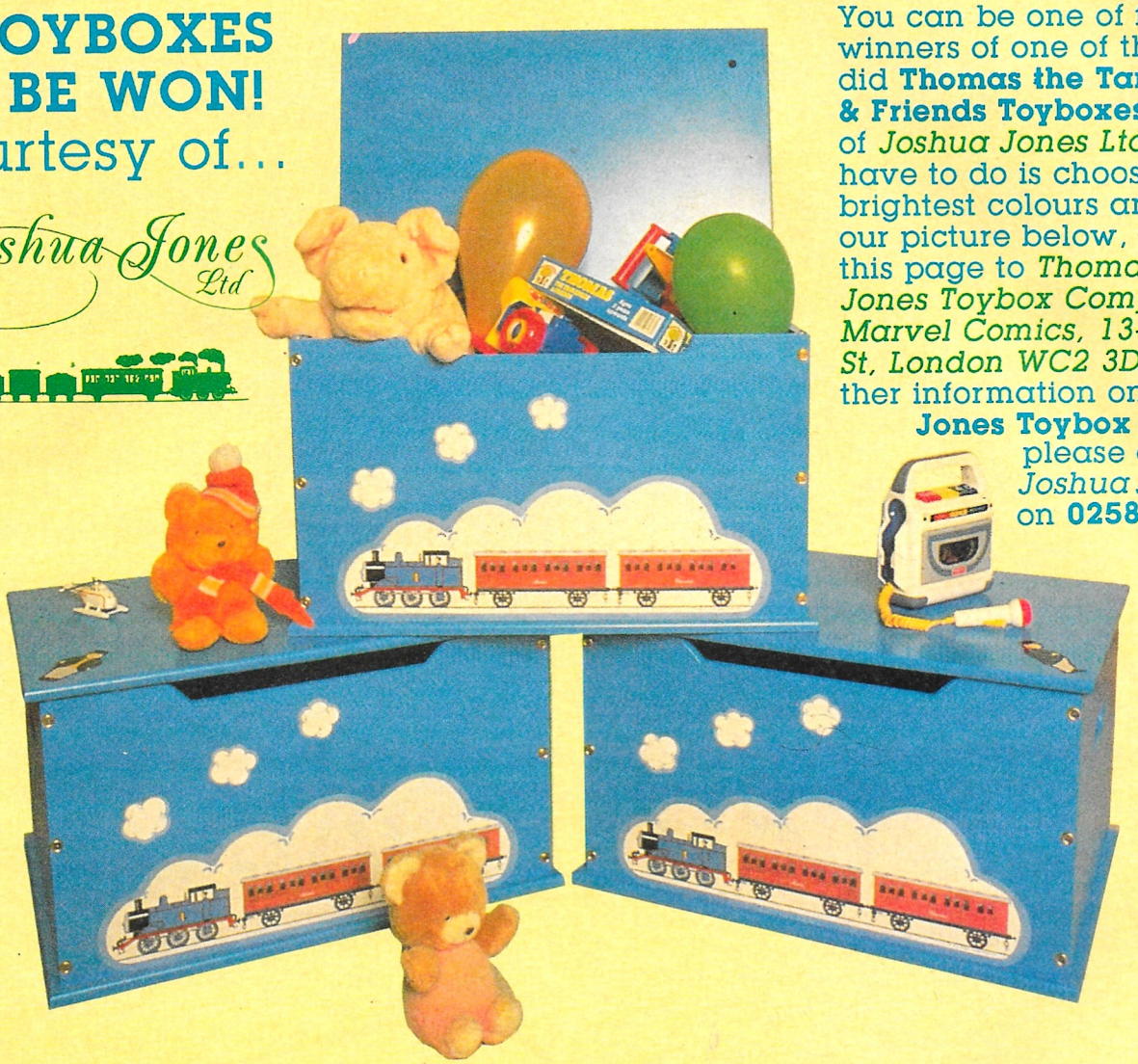
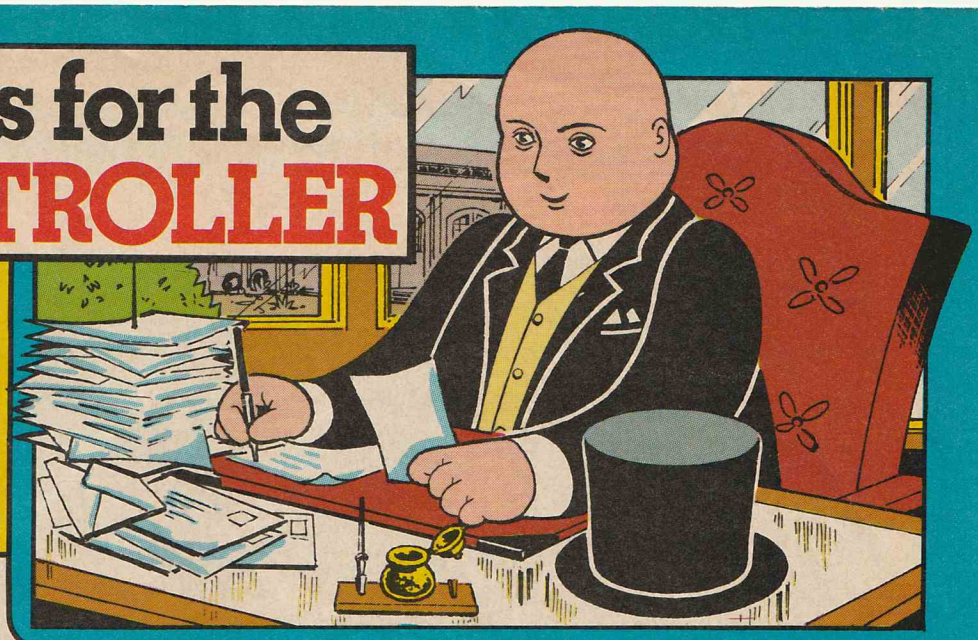


You can be one of five lucky winners of one of these splendid **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Toyboxes**, courtesy of *Joshua Jones Ltd*. All you have to do is choose your brightest colours and colour our picture below, then send this page to *Thomas/Joshua Jones Toybox Competition, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2 3DX*. For further information on **Joshua Jones Toybox** stockists, please contact *Joshua Jones Ltd* on **0258858470**.

Rules: This competition is open to readers other than employees and their families of Joshua Jones Ltd., William Heinemann Ltd, and Marvel Comics Ltd. The Editors decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

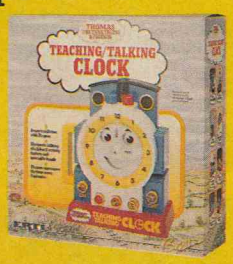
STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
My brother James fell over and hurt himself and I made him feel better, just as Thomas would have helped James when he was in trouble!

Love from **Thomas Hampson**, aged 4.

I must agree! I do feel that it is very important to teach the engines to help each other whenever possible and Thomas is one of the most co-operative and helpful of all my engines!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win this splendid **Thomas Teaching Talking Clock** courtesy of *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*



BEDTIME STORY!

Dear Fat Controller,
I love reading Thomas the Tank Engine stories. My favourite story is called **"Thomas and the New Clock"** and my mum always reads it to me before I go to sleep!

Love from **Sophie Hewitt**, aged 3.

That is also one of my favourite stories. I was especially impressed with the way in which the signalmen cleared the ice from the line. It meant that Thomas could deliver the clock to the town hall in time for the new year!

PLEASANT JOURNEY!

Dear Fat Controller,
I went on my first train journey last week. We travelled from Carlisle to Dumfries and we saw an engine that looked like Diesel!

Love from **Gavin Nicol**, aged 2.

I do believe that the Carlisle to Dumfries line is particularly scenic and I'm glad that you also saw some very fine engines!

BIRTHDAYS!

Steven Salvatore, David Quinn, A.J.Buckley, Maximillian Waters, Paul O'Keefe, Matthew James, Richard Green, Rachel Tamsin Johns, Samir Bashir, Matthew Gregory, Daniel Gregory (1689), Rachel Louise Nicolls (34822), Ashley John Sabin (34822), Joanna Eddington, John Chubb, Jack Bevan (39164), Ricky Hitchin (119), Luke Mason and Joshua Bolt.

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a postcard at least nine weeks in advance!

Yours
Sir Topham Hatt
The Fat Controller!

Send your letters to:

The Fat Controller
The Island of Sodor
c/o Marvel Comics Ltd
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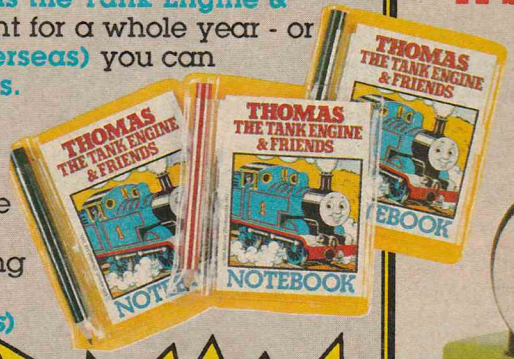
For just **£18.00 (35.00 overseas)**, your child will be sent **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** every fortnight for a whole year - or for **£10.00 (£18.00 overseas)** you can subscribe for **6 months.** **Additionally**, if you subscribe for a **whole year (UK subscribers only)** you will receive a **FREE Percy diecast model** plus a charming **notebook** and **pencil** ***(see opposite pictures)*** and personalised **Fat Controller's Card** enabling you to enter offers and competitions frequently open to **Fat Controller's Card** holders. Simply fill out the appropriate form below!



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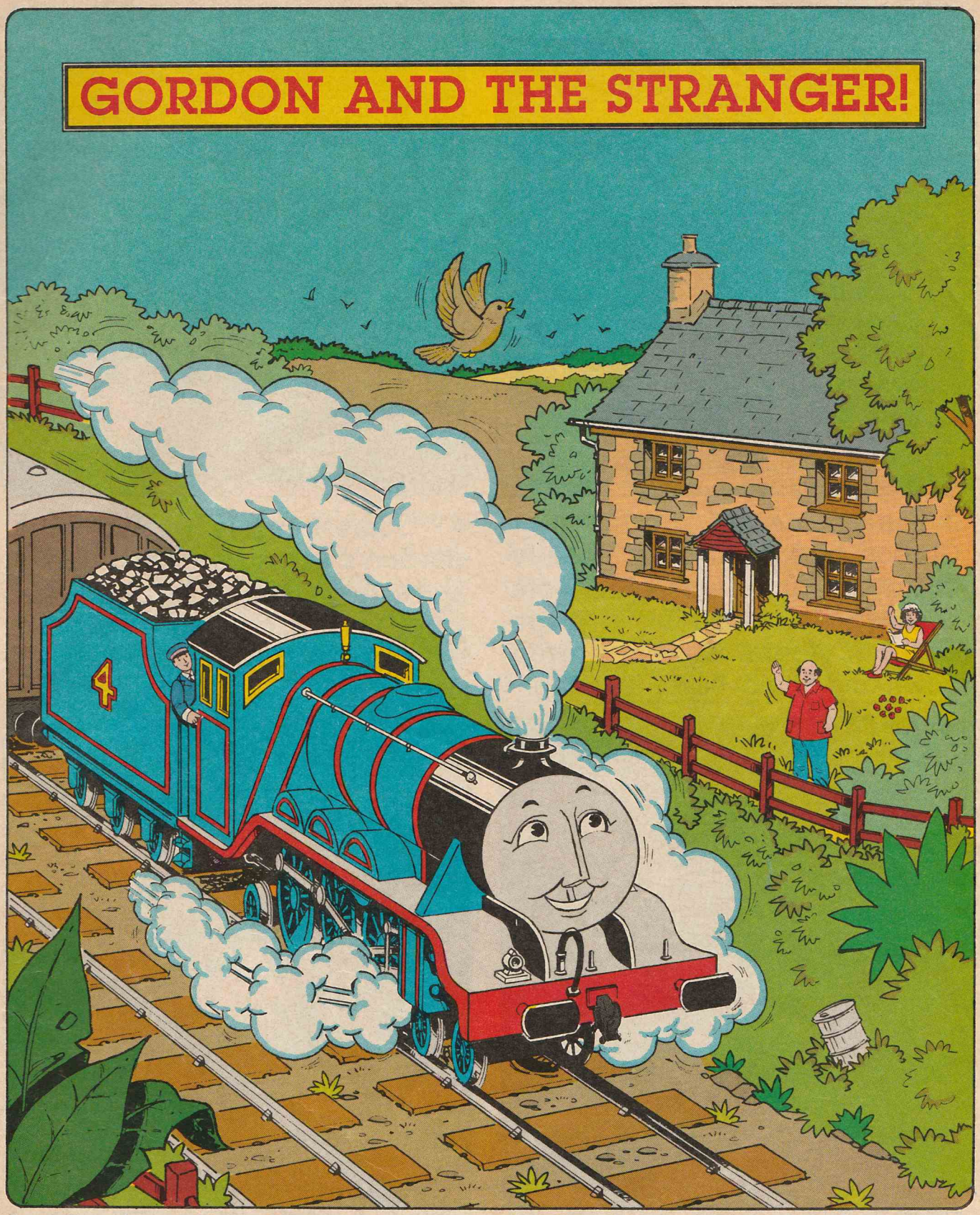
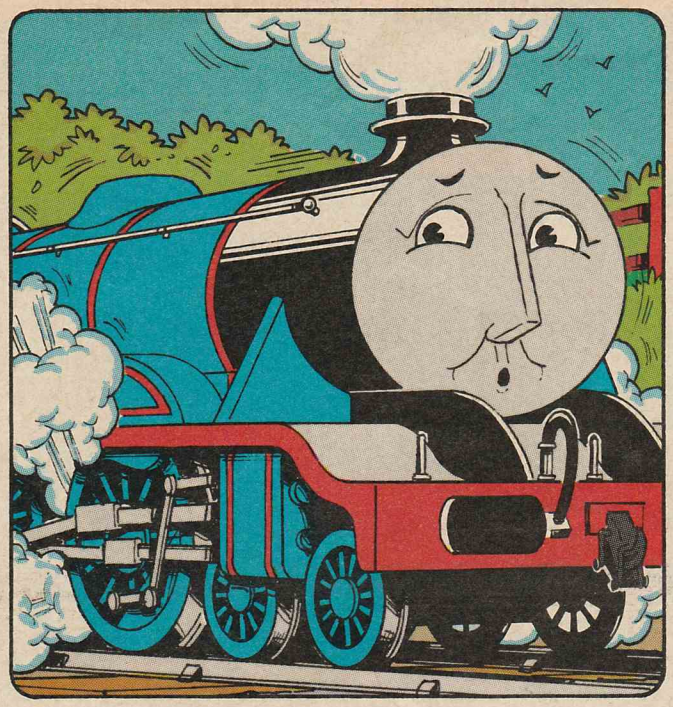
GORDON AND THE STRANGER!



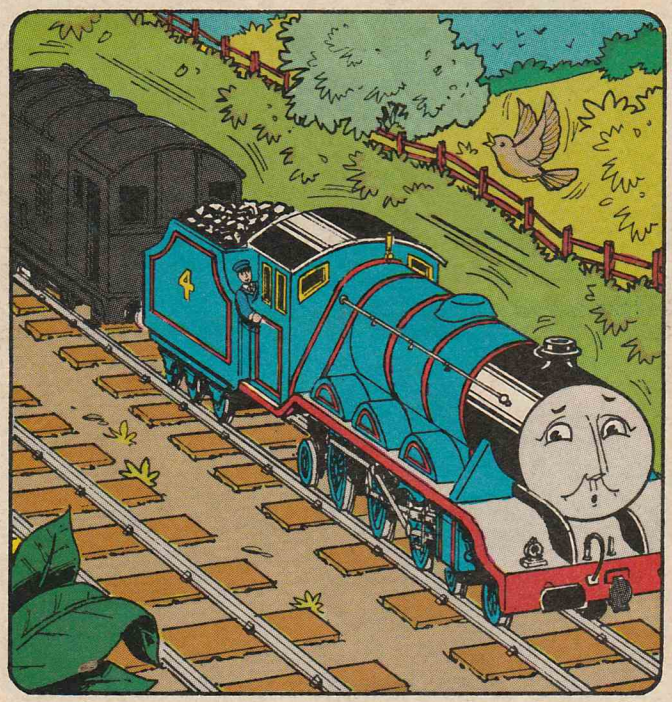
1. Gordon the Big Express Engine loved to show everyone just how fast he could go. "Just look at me!" he would thunder, as he raced along the main line track.

2. Gordon was even happier when people watched and waved as he went past. Every time he puffed past the holiday cottage, a man would wave at him from his garden.

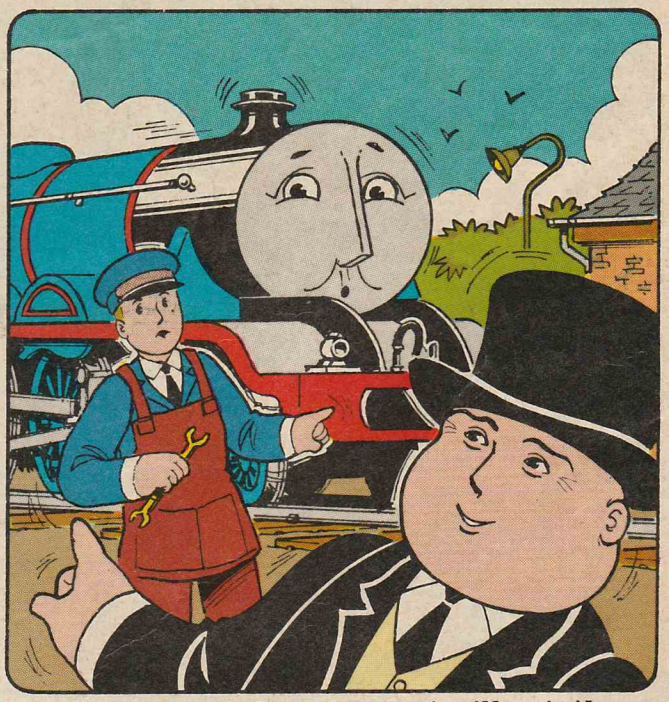


3. One morning, shortly after Gordon had passed the holiday cottage, there was a terrible whoosh, followed by a huge cloud of steam. Gordon slowed down and finally came to a stop.

4. "Something is wrong with Gordon's pressure system! He'll have to be taken back to the yard." said his driver. "We should tell the Fat Controller," added Gordon's fireman.

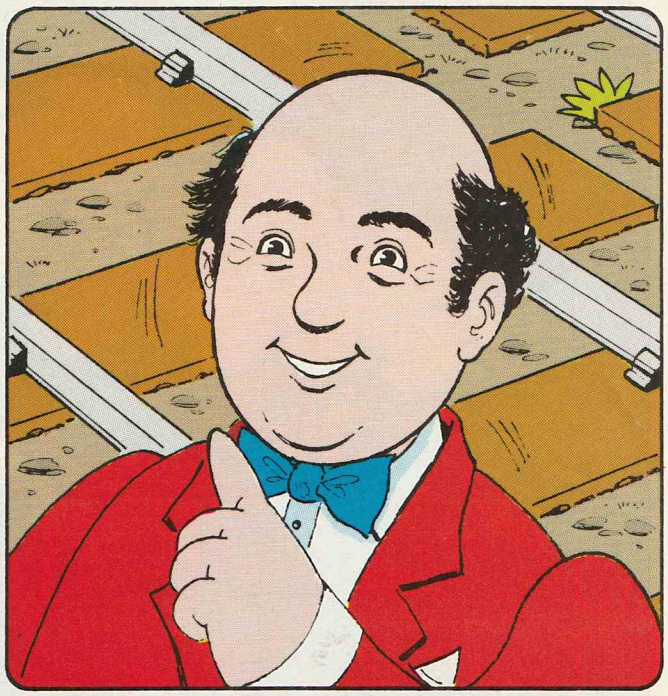


5. Gordon felt really miserable. It was bad enough being broken down, but to be shunted back to the yard was even worse. "The yard Engineer will put you right, Gordon," said his driver.

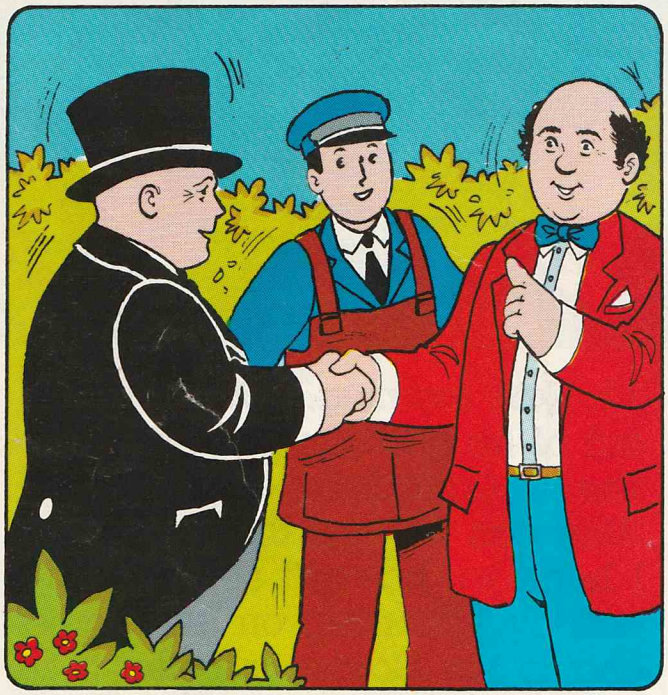


6. "The yard Engineer is ill at the moment!" said the Fat Controller. "We'll need an expert from the Mainland Locomotive Company to have a closer look at Gordon," he added.

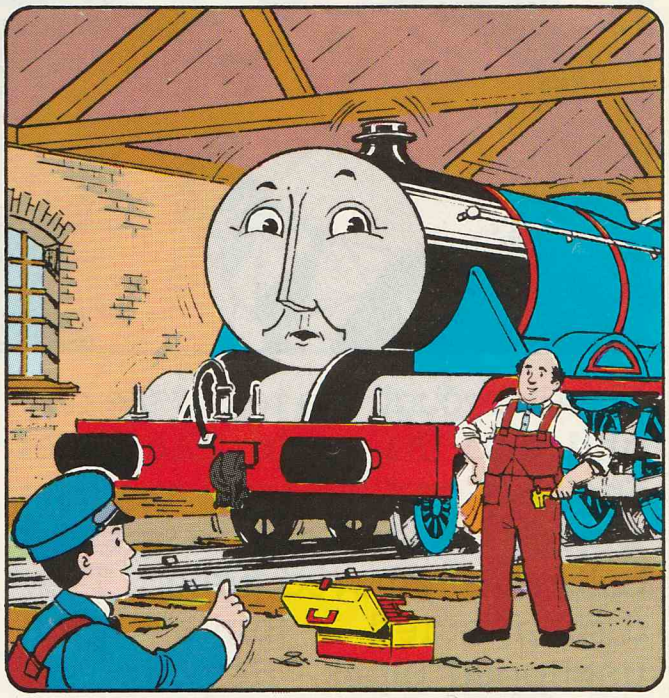
7. The Fat Controller telephoned the Mainland Locomotive Company. "The Chief Engineer is not there. He is on holiday until next week. What are we going to do?" said the Fat Controller.



8. Just then, the man from the holiday cottage by the main line, arrived at the yard. "Gordon did not arrive on time today! Is he alright?" "I'm afraid not," replied the Fat Controller.



9. "Perhaps I can help. I'm the Chief Engineer for the Mainland Locomotive Company," explained the man. "I am on holiday just now." "I've just telephoned your office," replied the Fat Controller.



10. Before long, the Chief Engineer had changed into his overalls. "Cheer up, Gordon. We'll soon put you right," he told the Big Express engine. "I hope so, sir," said Gordon.

11. All through the rest of the day and into the night, the Chief Engineer and the yard engineer worked away. They unscrewed bolts and removed panels. They disconnected joints and unclipped pipes. "Here we are. One of the pipes in Gordon's pressure system is split," said the Chief Engineer. In no time at all, a new pipe was fitted and everything put back in its place.

12. Next morning, Gordon puffed out of his shed as good as new. The Fat Controller looked pleased. "How can we ever thank you, sir? I hope we haven't spoiled your holiday." "Working on an Express engine like Gordon is better than being on holiday," smiled the Chief Engineer. "You're a very lucky engine, Gordon," said the Fat Controller. "I certainly am, sir," agreed Gordon.

THE END!

In our next issue: Almost an accident!